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THE OBSERVATOR.

ther Remarks on the Apprehending of several Popish Priests. Of the Advantage of Eng-*lishmen in being Try'd by Juries. The* Observators *threatned to be Stabb'd. Remarks on Modern Assassins. Of what may be gather'd from Party Papers. The use of it.*

From **Wednesday** October the 4th, to **Saturday** October the 7th, 1704.

untry-m. MAster *Observator*, you know I gave you an Account of the Apprehending of some *Popish* Priests, and I am now told it was done by some Honest Gentlemen that are *Protestants*, and who are Threaten'd to be Murder'd for their Pains.

Obs. By whom?

Country-m. By the *Papists*: Those are Bloody Fellows, and I am sure are too Civilly Treated by the *English* Nation: What signifie our Laws if they are not put in Execution? I dare engage, if God, for our Sins, should once more deliver us into the Hands of a *Popish* and *Tyrannical* Government, that they would use us severely enough.

Obs. Cutting of Throats, and Assassinations, have been the Practise of the *Romanists* in all Ages; the Children of *Ignatius Loyalla*, are all of 'em Baptized in the *Blood-Bowl*; and are skill'd in the use of the Dagger and Poniard; for the sake of Holy Church, they'll remove any Person out of their way, sparing not so much as Crown'd Heads; Royal Blood, without *Popish Serum*, is a Draught for a *Jesuit*.

If these Gentlemen are Threaten'd to be Murder'd, they must be the more Cautious, they must have a care of their Company, they must not so much as Eat or Drink with *Papists*; when they go Abroad they must wear their Swords, or rather Pistols in their Pockets; for when Attack'd all ways are fair in Killing an Assassin: They have two things to avoid, the *Poyson* and the *Dagger*.

We have had many Instances of execrable Murders, Committed by the *Roman Catholicks*; yet tho' they have Watered the Tree of *Popery* with *Protestant* Blood, it has Thriv'd never a Whit the better: One would have thought, after the Massacre of a Hundred Thousand *Protestants* in *Ireland* in one Night, that the *Popish* Interest would for ever be prevalent in that Kingdom; yet we find after so many *Protestant* Throats being Cut, and so many Sharp Battails Fought, that the *Protestants* hold their own in that Country.

They have Murder'd some of our Patriots in *England*, and Poison'd others; and yet the *Protestant* Interest here, has rather been Exalted than Depress'd by their Fall: The *Popish* Plot in the Reign of King *Charles* II. The Murder of Sir *Edmondbury Godfrey*, the Assassination of Justice *Arnold*, and other Scenes of *Popish* Cruelty, have made such deep Impressions on the Minds of *Englishmen*, as are Proof against Oblivion it self, and will not be Obliterated by the Succession of Years to come. The Name of a *Papist* is now, and will be Odious; Their Blood-Guiltiness can never be wash'd away.

Country-m. Master *Observator*, must these Men carry on the Suit against these Priests at their own Charge?

Obs. If they were taken up by these Private Gentlemen, without doubt they are Bound over to Prosecute: If they had been taken up by the Government, the Government would have Prosecuted. However, if they apply themselves to the Attorney-General, or any Minister of State, I make no Question but that they will have Countenance and Assistance from the Government; and, upon Conviction, they will Receive the Reward appointed by Law.

Country-m. But suppose the Jury should Acquit them? You know we have had a sad Story from *Abington* Assizes, of a Priests being Acquitted there, who had spoken Treason against the Queen.

Obs. These Priests are to be Try'd at the *Old-Baily* the next Sessions, if the Parties please: The *London* Juries, to the Honour of the Citizens be it spoken, are the most Impartial Enquirers of any in the Kingdom. I believe it cannot be found since the Revolution, that we have had in the City one Corrupt Jury, or Partial Verdict. Time has been when we could say otherwise: When Jury-Men could dispense with their Oaths, offer Violences to their own Consciencies; and, in effect, Damn themselves to please a Court-Faction. But they have unlearnt their own Iniquities, some of them, and others of 'em look with a Disdainful Eye on the Evil Practices of former Reigns; when a Great Man at Court, justly Reprehended for Evil Practices, could make himself the Government, and turn a Personal Injury to a State Crime. The Citizens now are grown Wiser, and know how to determine according to Law and Evidence, of both which they are Judges.

Happy *Englishmen*, that are Tryed by their Peers; that are found Guilty, or Acquitted by their Brethren, and Fellow Citizens! When the Natives of other Countries labour under a Despotick Power, and are Judged and Condemned by the single Vote of a Tyrant. And one would think these Priests may be ashamed to look a Jury in the Face, and to think that they have the Advantage of those Laws, which they have endeavoured to Subvert; under the Government of the Best of Queens, which they daily study to Undermine.

Country-m. Master *Observator*, you are Threaten'd as well as the Gentlemen that Apprehended the *Jesuits*. There's Captain *Some-Body*, or Lieutenant *Some-Body*, that says he'll Stab you, if he be Hang'd for't, for Abusing Sir *George Rook*.

Obs. I have heard of that Spark, and have been at his Lodgings, but Captain *Stabber* was not at Home. I know no Abuse I have put upon Sir *George Rook*: I did not cry *Victoria* as soon as the rest of the People: I am willing to Look before I Leap; I only said, That Sir *George*'s was not the Sharpest Engagement that ever was seen; and I can give good Reason for my

my saying so, if I am questioned: But 'tis a hard Case that a Man must be Stabb'd for giving his Opinion; certainly I have Liberty of Speech as well as another Man; and I hope I may compare Victories as well as other People: Let Sir *George* have the Honour of his Victories; I don't Envy him his Lawrels, but I must be Just to the Memory of our Ancestors, and to the Noble Chieftain at Sea in our Times; that, under God, has Sav'd the Nation, by giving the Marine Force of *France* such a Blow, that it will never more recover: Had the fourteen Three Deck'd Ships, destroy'd at *la Hogue*, been in Being at the Engagement in the *Streights*, let any Wise Man Judge what would have become of our Fleet. And must I Overlook all these things, because some Men have a mind to make the World believe things never seen before.

As to the Man that designs to Stab me, I have only this to say, That I would not have him Stab me in the Back; let me see my self Kill'd, or at least have time to Defend my self. I thank God I fear no Man Living; and I can assure those People, whosoever shall Attack me, I shall Treat him as an Assassin, and not as a Gentleman.

But, Honest *Country-man*, these Assassins and Bullies in other Peoples Causes, are a new sort of Men, sprung up in *England* in a few Years time; and that these Men should have Offices is a strange thing. The *French* King will Discharge an Officer of his that shall give a Challenge, much more a *Stabber*. We have Laws in *England* to do all Men Justice, and those Laws were never better Executed; no Man is allowed to do himself Justice, but in the ordinary Course of Law; and if Assassins and Stabbers be encouraged, no Man in *England* can tell where such a Practise may end; for 'tis as Lawful to Stab on one side as the other.

Country-m. Master, I would have you have a care of your self; you have many Enemies, and I hear the *Hog is* a Grunting after you.

Obs. The Ministry knows where to find me: No Minister, or Secretary of State, ever yet sent me a Letter, but I appear'd according to Direction; there was never any need of a Warrant against me; and tho' my Lord *Nottingham*, when he was Secretary of State, had many Complaints against me, I can Appeal to his Lordship, whether ever I neglected coming to his Office upon his Lordships Letter? And when I was ordered to be Prosecuted, I had no Warrant Issued against me; so that you see I have been Treated like a Gentleman by some Ministers.

Indeed the Case is somewhat now alter'd, and I think 'tis Punishment enough for any Gentleman, to have so Foul and Scandalous a Creature as the *Hog* sent upon Enquiry after him; nor do I know any occasion of it on my part; for I have given sufficient Bail already to the Government, so that I am fast Bound.

Country-m. Don't Trouble your Head, Master, about this Business. I am told 'tis a common thing for the *Hog* to make a Noise of Warrants when he has none; but 'tis your Fate, who can help it?

Obs. If I have done an ill thing let me suffer; I only desire a clear Stage and no Favour.

Country-m. That you'll never have, if some People can have their Wills. I Warrant [illegible] thousand Lies are Printed of you in one Week

Obs. There is not a Week passes over [illegible] Heads, but many Lies are Printed against [illegible] Government, Reflections on the House of Pe[illegible] on the Bishops, on every thing that is Good a[illegible] Just; and it may not be amiss to consider th[illegible] things.

Were I to Write a true History of the Tim[illegible] I would take it from the Papers that are Wr[illegible] ten on both sides; for therein we find the G[illegible] nuine Meaning and Pretensions of all Partie[illegible] Nor is it a Thought unworthy the Cognizan[illegible] of Princes and Statesmen, to consider this Poin[illegible] For much is to be gathered from Written an[illegible] Printed Papers.

Ever since I have Written a Weekly Paper, i[illegible] Defence of the Queens Right to the Crown, th[illegible] Settlement of the Succession on the Houle o[illegible] *Hannover*, in Vindication of our most Noble Pa[illegible] triots the *Peers*, the Right Reverend the *Bishops* and the *Liberties* of *Englishmen*; the *Jacobites*, *Papists*, and *High-Flyers*, (an Infamous Turnary of Men) have been my Opponents. They have Written, and do now Write Weekly Libels against me, but with such ill Success, that their Papers never Sell; they are forc'd to give 'em away, and can't find Customers enough to take 'em for nothing; a sure Sign that their Party is very Scandalous, and of no Esteem: And being not able to Answer me, they have Recourse to Interest with Persons of Power, and think they have done their Business, if they get me Prosecuted; but I am still under the Protection of Law, and think my self safe, whilst *Westminster-Hall* is free from Corrupt Judges.

Now the greatest Misfortune attends me is this, I am a sort of Unbeliever, and can't say *Amen* to all the People Print of Victories, &c. every one tells his Story as he pleases, and Adorns his Heroe with Lawrels, as best suits his Humours. One of our News-Papers says, *That the Queen sent one of Her Coaches to St.* Hellens *to Receive Sir* George Rook; an Honour I don't remember was ever done a Subject before. Now, did I believe this, I might please a certain Party, but all Wise Men would count me a most Egregious Coxcomb, to believe that a Coach (tho' it were the Queens) could drive Fourteen or Fifteen Miles upon the Sea, to St. *Hellen*'s Road, to receive a Vice-Admiral.

Country-m. You'll make an Infidel of me, at this Rate: It grows late, and my *Joan*'s gone to Bed.

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